

DOHERTY BROS.
GENERAL FARMING
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Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

August 1, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Michael Doherty, I farm rice, almonds, wine grapes, alfalfa and four other crops in Yolo, Colusa, and Sutter Counties. I farm these crops in a partnership with my two younger brothers and my father. We are fifth generation Californian farmers, we have strong ties to the land, and in many ways consider ourselves protectors of it.

I am writing to ask you to prolong the period in which to look over and comment on the CalFed EIS/EIR that was released on July 21, 2000. I was unable to get my hands on the report for several days after you released it. It is difficult for me to adequately review the document in the short period of time given. I work 65-75 hrs per week, so in the evenings after a full days work I read the CalFed EIS/EIR. I would simply like more time to comment on the report.


It is my strong belief that more surface water is needed for this generation and the ones to come. Without surface water we will overuse our limited ground water (which by the way isn't all high quality) and future generations of farmers and conservationists will be left without.

Our farm is teeming with wild life: wild pigs, deer, pheasant, ducks, geese, hawks, eagles, wild turkeys, foxes, just to name a few. I hesitate to think what it would be like without water

I'm also of the opinion that before the government purchases more ground, it should better manage the land it already owns. We are private landowners who do a better job of managing our wildlife habitat than does the government who have all the "experts".

Lastly, our economy not only of our local rural area , but statewide included, will suffer mightily if more ground is taken out of production (whether by conservation or lack of water). I do not think CalFed tried hard enough to minimize farmland losses, let's try and do something about it.

Sincerely


Michael F. Doherty

Cc: Governor Davis
Doug Ose

Dianne Feinstein

Barbara Boxer